



SACP

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

EASTERN CAPE

PEC BULLETIN

*Let's make education fashionable -
Andile Mosha*



Lessons from Joe Slovo - M. Rume



Remembering Joe Slovo: X. Nqatha

12th edition

Socialism is the future, Build it now!!!!

Background:

The SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin is a medium of the SACP for propagating its views with the working class in an unmediated fashion.

While it is important to constantly engage and contest ideas within the bourgeoisie commercial media but SACP is alive to the reality that any commercial media is first and foremost inclined to reflect views of its masters (monopoly capital).

It also contains regular features such as letters to the editor, commentary and a variety of other exciting features on working class struggles, the economy, etc.

Guidelines for Submission of Articles

Style and Length:

The length for feature articles is 1200-1800 words.

Letters to the editor must not exceed 300 words and opinion pieces must not exceed 600 words.

Articles must be written in plain and simple English. Articles may contain words in other South African languages, with the English meaning bracketed.

Articles must be relevant to membership of our party and the working class in general, exciting and solicit debate and discussions.

Articles about recent events or contemporary issues in South Africa and the world will be given preference for publication in the SACP Eastern Cape PEC bulletin.

All SACP District Spokespersons, YCLSA Spokesperson and other Spokespersons of the MDM fraternal organisations are encouraged to submit articles about the recent activities; as they might not be covered in the mainstream media.

Due Date:

The SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin is published monthly (12 issues per annum). The due date for the submission of articles is the 20th of each month.

Late submissions will not be considered for an edition of such month but for future editions.

Originality:

The SACP EC PEC Bulletin publishes original articles. We also publish articles which have appeared elsewhere in whole or in part.

Should you feel that republishing an article would be beneficial to SACP EC PEC Bulletin readership and that the article will reach a broader readership through our medium than the medium that first published it, then you need to bring this to the attention of the Editor.

All sources cited in the articles must be referenced.

Themes:

Different editions/ issues of the SACP PEC Bulletin will have specific themes (Joe Slovo Month, Chris Hani Month, Youth Month, Red October, SACP anniversaries, COSATU Anniversaries, ANC anniversary, etc.) therefore some articles must be tailored to suit the specific theme. Each issue/edition of the SACP EC PEC bulletin will indicate the theme of the next edition, so articles should be submitted as such.

Processing of Articles:

All articles shall be subjected to scrutiny by the SACP EC PEC bulletin editorial team.

The SACP EC Bulletin is particularly interested in fostering a culture of reading and writing amongst the leadership and membership of our party.

We will therefore give special consideration to the articles written by the general members of our party.

Articles will go through a review process, after which we will inform the contributor whether the article will be published or not.

The review process largely depends on the adherence to deadlines provided by the Editor and the content of the article as submitted.

Editorial Team:

Xolile Nqatha
Siyabonga Mdoti
Sisimone Rakaibe
Siyabulela Mbedla
Fundile "Blacks" Gade
Mawethu Rune
Nonkoliso Ngqongwa
Andile Mosha

Next Edition: Kindly forward your contributions to simdodi@gmail.com on Friday, 19 February 2016.

IN THIS ISSUE



EDITORIAL NOTES



REMEMBERING JOE SLOVO - 03



RACISM MUST FALL- 05



LET'S MAKE EDUCATION FASHIONABLE - 08



SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin, the official journal of the SACP in the Province welcomes you to 2016. We wish you all the best in this year and beyond. This is the year we should put more focus on the second more radical phase of our democratic transition.

This is our 12th issue of the journal, as it is common knowledge that in the month of January, the SACP and all progressive formations commemorate the life and times of our former National Chairperson, General Secretary, ANC NEC Member, MK Chief of Staff, Cde Joe Slovo.

He was a member of the African National Congress National Executive Committee. Together with South Africa's first democratically elected President Nelson Mandela, Slovo was involved in the founding of the joint ANC-SACP liberation army, uMkhonto weSizwe (MK). He held various positions of responsibility, including as MK Chief of Staff.

Slovo was involved in key sites of struggle and participated in strategic centres of power as an activist, a leader and an intellectual of note. He was involved in developing the strategy and tactics of our liberation struggle as a whole and the Communist Party's political programme.

Slovo's intellectual work, strategic and tactical thinking, working in the context of collective leadership, spans almost all key documents of our liberation struggle, including, our very Constitution as a country!

At the time of his death on 6 January 1995 Slovo was the National Chairperson, Politburo and Central Committee member of the SACP and first Minister of Housing in our country's first democratically elected government.

The year ahead:

2016 is the year of the Local Government elections (LGE) in South Africa. It therefore means that it is the year in which we should revitalise our energy in working for the overwhelming victory of the ANC led movement.

It is of paramount importance that we do not allow the new emerging threats to the unity of the alliance to

derail us in our course. We should remain focus on putting our country on a more radical phase of the transition. We should remain focus on confronting the challenges facing our country, challenges of persistent poverty, unemployment and multi-dimensional inequality.

However in doing that, we must not allow the corporate capture and the high jacking of both our movement and the state by greedy people within the ANC, as that is a threat to the persuasion of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) itself.

We must not only work to expose these negative tendencies but also work to defeat them, this we should do for the ANC and the people of our land. This kind of tendency is self-defeating to the liberation movement. As the South African Communists, we should never allow the movement to be captured by greedy people, whether they imposed themselves as genuine leaders when they are the opposite.

Having said that, let's mobilise communities to vote the ANC in the forthcoming LGE but also refuse to campaign for thieves and imposed candidates. Let us defend the people's power.

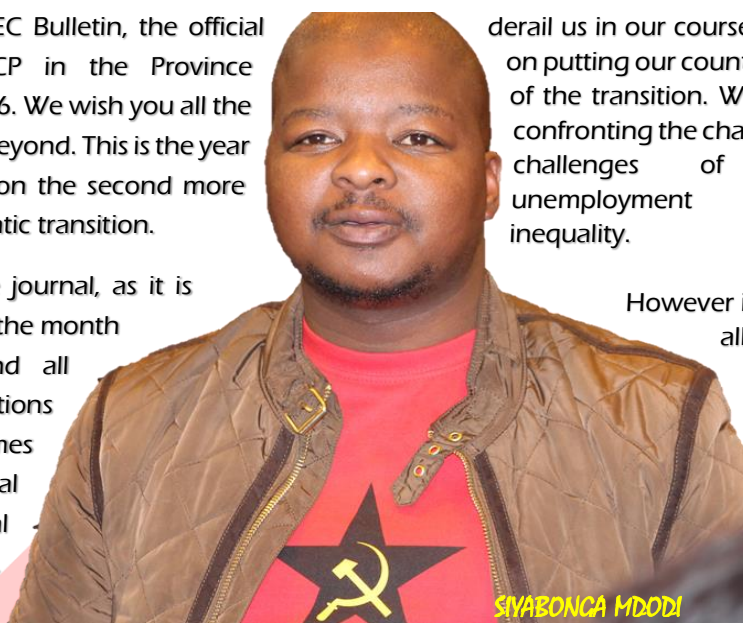
In this issue:

This edition is focusing on remembering who and what Joe Slovo was, we will also extrapolate some lessons from this great thinker that the SACP ever produced, among many others. In this edition we will have interesting articles from, Cde Xolile Nqatha - SACP Provincial Secretary, ANC PEC Member & Member of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature.

An article from Andile Mosha – YCLSA Provincial Secretary. We also have an article penned by Mawethu Rune – SACP PEC Member, ANCYL PEC Member, Former National Deputy Chairperson of YCLSA, and Former President of SASCO. We have introduced a new feature in the journal, letters to the editor. This will afford space to the readership of the bulletin to interact with the editor and submit their suggestions on the bulletin.

May you have a revolutionary read.

Siyabonga Mdodi – SACP Provincial Spokesperson



SIYABONCA MDODI



REMEMBERING & HONOURING JOE SLOVO

January the 6th 2016 marks the 21st anniversary of the passing of one of the greatest intellectuals and practising revolutionary, comrade Joe Slovo, whose passing left a void in the hearts of millions of workers and the poor, for he lived his life to better their conditions. The life of the late Comrade Slovo is full of examples of trying to find solutions to theoretical and practical burning questions of each epoch. It is for this reason that one will attempt to remember him by dealing with the burning issues confronting the South African Revolution.

As we remember JS, as he was popularly known, our revolution and our country is at the eye of the storm with challenges threatening the non-racialism project, the unity of the alliance, factionalism and corruption all together stalling the hopes of the majority of the people to enjoy real freedom.

As we witness and experience the rise of racism and right-wing and proto fascists like red berets becoming more confident which threatens the objective of building a non-racial society we cannot fail not to think about Joe Slovo for he was deeply committed to non-racialism in line with our party being the first non-racial organisation in our country. He is among those white compatriots who remembered they were white when they looked at the mirror. This resulted even the apartheid security forces to think he was a black man.

There is a story that Comrade Sbu Ndebele (Former KZN Premier), when he was arrested, he was once asked about during the incarceration by his interrogators, "Ngubani isithakazelo sikaSlovo?" (Isiduko) (clan name), they could not even think there could be a white man

so deeply committed to the freedom of the oppressed black majority.

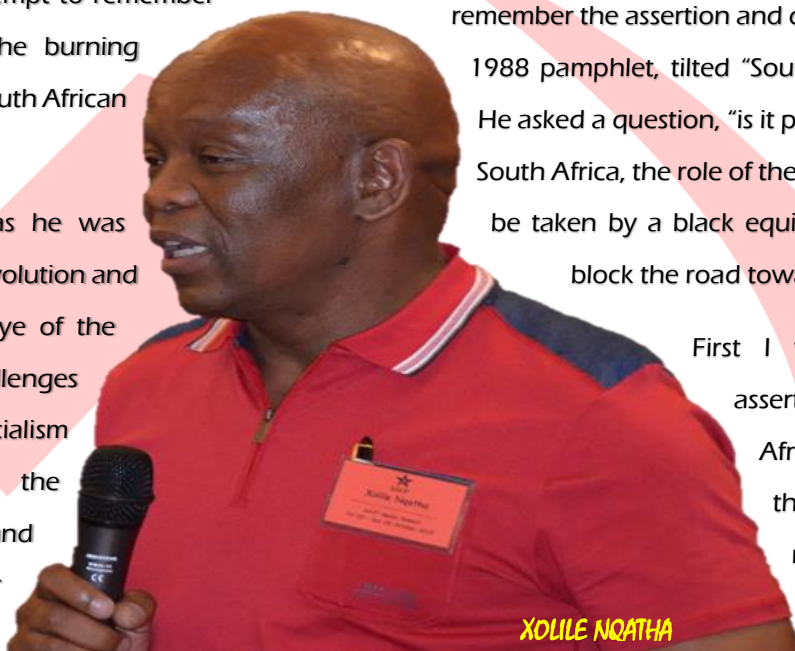
As we are faced with the challenges as mentioned above and the inability of the ANC led broad liberation movement to forge ahead with the uniting alliance decision to launch our country on a more radical second phase of the transition for economic transformation for the benefit of the majority. One cannot fail but remember the assertion and question posed by JS in his 1988 pamphlet, tilted "South Africa: No Easy Road". He asked a question, "is it possible in a post-apartheid South Africa, the role of the all-White Bourgeoisie can be taken by a black equivalent which will seek to block the road towards real emancipation?".

First I want to underline the assertion he made that "South Africa: No Easy road", indeed the road is not easy as our revolution is at a cross roads, put differently, at the eye of the storm with

possibility for rightward shift and derailment of the revolutionary project to achieve radical economic changes or real emancipation as in the words of JS.

Secondly, at the heart of the inability for revolutionary movement to move forward is that the all-white bourgeoisie in South Africa was not replaced and remain firmly in control of the economy but has produced and co-opted parasitic bourgeoisie and they are now acting together to block the road for real emancipation.

Part of the bigger problem is the parasitic bourgeoisie (Guptas for example) have captured parts of the liberation movement and working together with established capital to build a new alliance whose core base is the capitalist class and replace the current ANC led alliance whose main base is the working class. This



emerging alliance, loosely called Premier League exposes the reality that the ANC being a political centre (as some oppose the alliance being the centre) is not a given, it is contested reality because of multi-class character of the movement.

This is the reason we should be uniting as the alliance to defeat the new alliance with its agenda of looting state resources. If they succeed to capture the movement, it would mean the defeat of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) and possible break of the alliance as it is inconceivable to still have the alliance as the agenda of this emerging alliance see both the SACP and COSATU as a threat.

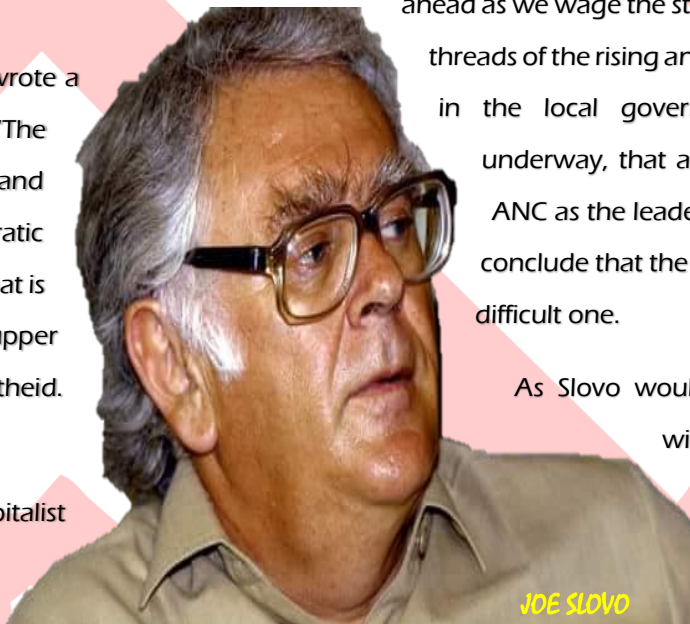
Again comrade Slovo in 1998 wrote a thought provoking pamphlet, "The South African Working Class and the National Democratic Revolution". He writes about what is obvious about the middle and upper strata and possibilities post-apartheid. He says:

It is obvious that the black capitalist class favours capitalism and that it will do its best to influence the post-apartheid society in this direction.

It is obvious that the black middle and upper classes who take part in a broad liberation alliance will jostle for hegemony and attempt to present their interests as the interests of all Africans.

It is obvious that (like their counterparts in every part of the world) the black middle and upper strata, who find themselves on the side of people's struggle, are often inconsistent and vacillating. They are usually the soft targets for achieving a reformist, rather than a revolutionary outcome.

"The working class has to unite and cannot surrender the leadership of the national democratic revolution to the middle and upper strata"



Fast forward to 2016, some belonging to these stratas within the movement are seeking to present their interests as those of the majority and through all means including gate keeping, use of money and they are

working hard to capture the direction of the revolution and the movement it leads.

The working class has to unite and cannot surrender the leadership of the national democratic revolution to the middle and upper strata. In the name of Joe Slovo this should be the main and priority goal of the working class and its vanguard, the SACP. We do not have a map that shows the hills and mountains ahead as we wage the struggle, but from the current threads of the rising anti-communism and divisions in the local government election processes underway, that are failing to unite even the ANC as the leader of the alliance, it is safe to conclude that the road ahead is going to be a difficult one.

As Slovo would have done, communists will be the last ones to surrender the ANC on a silver platter to a parasitic bourgeoisie led new alliance, for communists are among those who have paid supreme sacrifice for our country to be where it is today. But make no mistake, we shall never allow anyone because of our known utter devotion to the movement to take us (communists) for granted and be abused. The struggle continues.

Long live the unity and leadership of the working class!
Long live the memory of Joe Slovo and his seminal work!

Xolile Nqatha – SACP Provincial Secretary.



REMEMBERING JOE SLOVO #RACISM_MUST_FALL

In remembering Joe Slovo (herein under referred to as JS), it is opportune to deal with racism as a topical issue which has arisen not for the first time post 1994 and definitely not for the last time. It is opportune for reason that JS consciously betrayed his benefit of luxury as white person and joined the democratic forces which were deliberate in launching onslaught on the very benefits that were enclave of white people.

It is also deliberate in arguing that he betrayed white privileges in that while persistent struggle against colonisation of a special type its fundamental struggle is socio-economic but its dominant oppression continues to be racial. It is recorded that on JS along white colleagues on return from Second World War they were favoured with bursaries to pursue qualifications of their choice as against their black counterparts, who were belittled and insulted by being favoured with bicycles and jackets. Here are same men who risked their lives for what was a shared cause but on their return having been victorious, they are treated so proportional different with effectively life defining gestures.

But JS who could have easily chosen the comfort and luxury defied all that and sold out the system of privilege to him and associate with real possibility of being incarcerated and or be killed. As it is was even in JS times as it has become some sort of mutual culture in South Africa, festive season is characterised by short break and much needed time to spend with family and friends and 2015/2016 was no different.

Peculiar of 2016 was that while the country was still trapped in that induced cheerful mood it was rudely awakened and brought to planet earth very fast by



plain sickening and outright racist tweets by certain Penny Sparrow and Justin Van Vuuren. Expectedly this set nation tongues rolling and thoroughly got deserving condemnation, as nation pushed back some hard core racist in like of Harts and Cliffs of this world could not help themselves but voiced their surprise in that racism is received with such shock.

Some painfully projected these incidents as isolated and not reflection of whites or black population for that matter, relationship in this country. But reality is that these are conversation which segment of white South Africans often have over dinner table or walks in the park. As it is at time it is hidden and at time in the open but racism in South Africa is pervasive and entrenched.

For example not so long ago, in fact just after 2014 National and Provincial elections, a cartoon was published on Wednesday of 28 May by Prime Media Group entity Eye Witness News (EWN), which depicted black voters as idiots who voted for clowns who are inherent incapable and have no clue of what they are doing, worse newly appointed cabinet as bunch of buffoons.

Many commentators have written at length on definition of racism and whatever they converge on what is outstanding is that racism has everything to do with material prejudice based on colour of skin. Meaning therefore those incapable of materially prejudicing are incapable of being racist. In relation to South African context it is instructive that white people must accept that they inflicted violent and repressive economic and social relation that did not just rob

“Meaning therefore those incapable of materially prejudicing are incapable of being racist”



African of their wealth but virtually degraded and dehumanised black(s) as a people. Defeat of racism therefore relies to redressing blacks (s) as a people as to restore their being.

It is important to acknowledge that it is not just allocation of blame but accepting historic reality that this pervasive social construct (racism) arise as product of series of violent and destruction of anything of value blacks would have had. Over decades white would be constructed into belief even by some blacks that white is superior, better, smarter, capable etc and black is lazy, corrupt, incapable and there must rely on superior white.

Former ANC President General John Langalibalele Dube, captures the sentiment as early as 1912 in that **“We have discovered that in the land of their birth, Africans are treated as hewers of wood and drawers of water”**. Words of President grasp the essence of racist stereotypes as not that white people hate black people per se including the identified racist individuals but structure of the economy was human engineered to place white as superior and within his or her authority to treat black person as his/her subject. This was achieved through violence, deception and plundering of African wealth and to exclude, marginalize and dehumanize African black from wealth of their own country and to systematically manipulate super structure in justification as to why blacks must be robbed their dignity and being.

Poverty, unemployment and inequality in this country is structural and have racial dimension with Africans at receiving end owing to human engineered structure of the economy which remain highly monopolised (with means of production still in hands of few lily whites males), less industrialised (dominant mineral, energy

finance complex, that operate from excreting minerals, from pit to export raw materials) with a weak manufacturing base. This racism and white supremacy therefore originates from racial structural content of South African economy and social construct. It has over time evolved psychologically even among those at receiving end to believe that what it is god ordained for white person to be superior.

“..white people are all beneficiaries of the racist system of course to varying degrees”

Therefore we cannot deny that owing to historical context, white people are all beneficiaries of the racist system of course to varying degrees. And their economic position places white people to be at position in which they can material prejudice black folks on basis of their skin colour and blacks as people are not in an economic position to material prejudice against white people on basis on skin colour, which then means as it stands black people are incapable position to be racist.

Central therefore in defeating racism should not only be chastising those who bring dinner table talks to public domain or condemning those racist elements to hiding but much in a much deliberate way a second phase of radical economic transformation must be speeded in ensuring that the base structure of our society reflect demographics of its people and majority of South Africans whom happen to be African and black benefit from abundant wealth of their country. In that manner their dignity and being will be restored and equality will not be academic but real.

As long as being black is associated with being poor and white is associated with being rich, these racist elements at times they will pop in the open and African economic freedom can provide sustainable non-racist, non-sexist, democratic, united and prosperous society, which should be struggle of both black and white as taught by JS.

Mawethu Rune – SACP PEC Member.



RESTRUCTURE THE ECONOMY, END INEQUALITIES, POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

I will reflect on the state of our economy in particular focus on the illicit financial outflows, transfer pricing and aggressive tax planning and their impact in the social and labour market unrest in South Africa.

Proceeding from the premise of, the economic system, class dynamics and ideological currents which fortify these phenomenon's with racial cleavages which bore all the hallmarks from the colonial conquest and exploitation of the native African majority in our country.

The racial solidarity of the union of 1910 exposed institutionalisation of racism in a project to loot South African resources with an intent to exclude and repress the African majority and their development.

I make this very short background so as to make my point about, illicit capital outflows, aggressive tax planning, transfer pricing and local resource depletion arrangements done by white monopoly capital to damage South African economy thereby causing social and labour unrest in the labour market with low wages in the economy and slow service delivery driven by government with constrained fiscal resources.

Illicit Capital outflows and transfer pricing erode the base for tax, the base for paying living wages to thousands of workers and the base for local investments which could create jobs in the economy.

Tax evasion/profit shifting is a domestic phenomenon before a cross broader matter, local and cross boarder subsidiary companies of transnational companies pay to their sister companies billions in administration fees, legal services, marketing commissions so that by the time tax-man and labour unions come to the table they would have shifted their actual profits to their sister companies robbing public purse billions and workers a living wage. These phenomenons stagnate diversity and development of commerce and industry in the SA economy.

Mntuwoxolo Ngudle – YCLSA O.R Tambo District Deputy Secretary.

LET US APPLY VIGILANCY AT ALL TIMES

Che Guevara once wrote that "Cadres are the backbone of the revolution" on the of local government election the party is being asked to play its critical role of scientifically analysing the current political conjuncture and give its proper characterisation. Once again as the SACP activists and Marxist scholars, we are tasked to make a critical analysis on what is for or against the working class on this upcoming local government elections.

We worked very hard to ensure that cadres of the party are deployed in many council in 2011 Local Government Elections, and many were deployed. The SACP as advised by its resolution on swelling all key sites of power and influence with and for the workers and the poor, then tasked the party cadres to form the Party Discussion Forums.

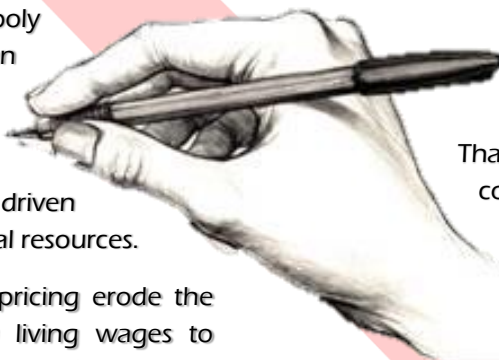
In our (Skenjana Roji) case, the District Council of the party held towards the end of May 2011 took a resolution that all party cadres in the BCMM Council as deployed must establish Party Discussion Forums in those corridors.

That never yielded results instead we saw comrades working against this party. In the heat of the moment when party members were tasked to rise to the occasion in the Council that they are deployed at, they decided to show their true colours that they were never party cadres but they used this party as the bus stop waiting for deployments on council and spit on this party.

I am raising this as to warn comrades that this is a possibility in all the districts/regions, it is therefore important that the party closely monitors its Party Discussion Forums. This we should do to increase our influence in that strategic site of the struggle.

Branches of the party are being warned to critical analysis this process of local government elections because "udyakalashé woluse igusha" (the Jackal is herding sheep). Party comrades are called upon to defend the revolution from serial lootist troops.

Ludwe Mnweba – SACP Skenjana Roji Spokesperson.



EDUCATION AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT IN THE CAUSE

The pre-1994 history has to some extent destroyed the life of many citizens in particular the Africans. This was implemented in many ways but mainly to advance capitalist ambitious interests. It is a fact that despite seen democratic breakthrough in 1994, the legacy of the pre-1994 regimes will take a longer time to reverse if the importance of education is not emphasised among young people and to the society at large. Young people as early as 14 years of age are falling within the scope of YCLSA work in the sense that they are prospective members. As such, it is always important for Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA) structures to intensify the recruitment of young people to its rank. This action can definitely give young people hope and aspirations of learning, learning and learning as Lenin once said on the tasks of Young Communists.

After the democratic breakthrough in 1994, the emphasis has been on the adoption of approaches to redress the imbalances and inequalities of the past. The ANC-led government strategized a programme of restructuring the education system on principles of equity, human rights, democracy and sustainable development. The South African education system in particular to the provinces such as Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo is still facing major challenges, with administration challenges as well keep coming to the forefront. This is especially true in terms of the tension between implementing changes that need both time and considerable resources to work their way through and propinquity of issues that need to be addressed at the sites of implementation i.e. in the schools, TVET Colleges and universities. This narrative therefore necessitates YCLSA to join other stakeholders in the education sector to be consistent in campaigning

for achievement of producing well-educated citizens in the future. This notion therefore will assist in bringing about lasting solutions to the challenges engulfing the education sector.

Every year, the YCLSA which is a youth wing of the South African Communist Party (SACP) embarks on a review, assessment and revival process of one of its campaign named after Joe Slovo. This campaign is popularly known as "Joe Slovo Right to Learn Campaign". The year round Joe Slovo Right to Learn Campaign objectives is to make sure that student and learners are not denied access to education because of fees. This campaign in the revolutionary terms seeks to address and empower young people in achieving the noble objective of becoming better conscious and patriotic citizens in future. Comrade Joe Slovo was a member and leader in many Congress Movement organisations. Just to name few, he became not only African National Congress (ANC) leader of the National Executive Committee (NEC) but most importantly the member of Central Committee of the SACP and it's General-Secretary. Furthermore, Comrade Joe Slovo was a founder member of the Congress of Democrats (COD) which was part of the Congress Movement whilst organising for the adoption of the Freedom Charter demands. Comrade Slovo went as far as obtaining Standard 6 1941, BA LLB at Wits in 1950 and LLM in 1966 although faced with extreme difficult conditions. Assisted by obtainment of education, Comrade Slovo represented the Congress of Democrats on the National Consultative Committee of the Congress Alliance which drew up the Freedom Charter. The Congress of Democrats played a major role in organising the Congress of the People gathering which managed to come up with what one can define it as step towards



ANDILE MOSHIA



the direction of socialism. Among the Freedom Charter demands, one is specifically dealing with this importance of education. This Freedom Charter demand outline the issue of education as follows;-

“The Doors of Learning and Culture shall be opened. The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life; All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands; The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace; Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children; Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit; Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan; Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens; The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished”.

Inspired by Comrade Joe Slovo’s attainment of education even though it was difficult, the YCLSA continue to carry out and embark on its Joe Slovo Right to Learn Campaign. As part of the Joe Slovo Right To Learn Campaign, the YCLSA across the country (in Provinces, Districts, Sub-districts and Branches) embarks on the programmes of campaigning against alcohol, visiting of schools, convening workshop/seminars on free education and making of follow up issues raised during school, TVET College and University visits. It is an undisputable fact that education is a societal matter which must be treated as such even when the sector faces difficulties. The education is the most important instrument and tool, the working class and the poorest of the poor children can use to totally liberate themselves for future life. Education plays a pivotal role in shaping the life of a person. In nowadays, it is only those who are educated whom they also manage live

better life and further contribute to the building of nation. Education gives person knowledge of becoming a good citizen, valued ones, respected through actions and more dependable. Education is the solution to anything. It is the only education which promotes good habits of class analysis.

The example of Comrade Joe Slovo having been implemented by the YCLSA through its programme called Joe Slovo Right to Learn Campaign and other organisations in the Mass Democratic Movement like Congress of South African Students (COSAS), National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) and South African Students Congress Organisation (SASCO) need to be more and more emulated by us all in the Congress Movement. The problem solving cycle of admitting that there is a problem within, identifying the actual problem, defining the identified problem accurately, devising and defining mechanisms which are best alternatives to solve the problem, choosing the best alternatives to solve the problem, implementing the chosen alternative to solve the problem, monitor and evaluate the implementation as to whether the problem is being solve successful or not, suggest on what must be done guided monitoring and evaluation experiences and lastly implementing the necessary changes. Through applying Marxism-Leninism philosophy and scientific tools of analysis, the children of working class and the poorest of the poor can liberate generations still to come from continuing paying black tax. For any organisation to achieve its main objectives, it must have influence, be able to be convincing and have art of persuasion in its membership and leadership. The actions of members and leaders whether as collective or on an individual bases are extremely important. All members are playing pivotal role in branding and marketing the organisation. Socialism is the future, let us build it now.

Andile Mosha - YCLSA EC Provincial Secretary



PUBLIC PERCEPTION IN POLICING: A POLITICAL SERVICE

The South African government upon the inception of the Constitutional democracy in 1994, amongst the immediate responsibilities it had was to transform the then police force into a service. The Constitution states that there shall be one police service under one National Commissioner.

The perception before 1994 was that police were only policing only on the basis of colour. Blackness was associated with criminality during this period (if you are black you were regarded as a criminal until proven otherwise). Even those that were working for the police were not even trusted by the same government they were working for. They were mainly used to brutalise the black people. The police were an enemy of the black community and a friend of the white community. The police during this era were military orientated, they only acted to ensure white dominance against black communities. The police made the segregation of South African people possible. The whole segregation created white economic dominance that created black criminals. The working class which happens to be largely black, produces products which are then owned and claimed by whites who dominates the economy. The police protects this interest of capital. 22 years of democratic South Africa, has this changed? What is the public perception towards the police today?

Christopher McMichael suggests that by the emergence of the South African Police in no other British dominion.... Was policing so nakedly an agency of an particular group against African, Indian, and Coloured labour in the burgeoning class domination over the white workforce with a series of Ferocious police and military clampdowns on a strike in the early decades of the 20th Century.



Police brutality and police killings since the 20th century have always been on working class against each other and in particular blacks on blacks. This is not an accident of history, it was created by apartheid government. The apartheid government created hatred between police and black communities.

We have seen different and shocking public order policing in the #FeesMustFall campaign where the police were taking picture of white protesters and showed less brutality while we see contrary scenes in the black people's protests. The conduct of both the police and protesters during the protest actions of black communities is the evidence of this hatred created by the apartheid. We would make a lot of examples in this instance but the most popular case would be that of Marikana Massacre. This hatred was created deliberately for reasons I am yet to discover. These inequalities are evident on the day to day operations of SAPS. The white people receive preferential and priority attention in attendance of complaints and investigation of cases that black people don't.

The media coverage on police killings and police brutality has also had a great impact in influencing perception about the police. The media will put on the front page any story about police brutality and it will be a small piece in the corner if a police is killed. Police brutality sells their papers. Some television stations are even showing Marikana Massacre just to show brutality of the police. This is not a mistake because those who fund these channels are comfortable with the current perception of the public and the police. It works for them that this perception is increasing.

The democratic constitution of South Africa states that the objective of the police service is to prevent, combat and investigate crime, to maintain public order, to



protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property, and to uphold and enforce the law. This section makes clear the role of the police in society. But is the role of the community in the fight against crime clear? The ANC government has created the Social Crime Prevention program which in essence to include the formation of Community policing. These still receive resistance from black communities because once you participate in such structures you are viewed as "impimpi". This is the perception that emanated from Apartheid. This makes it difficult for members of the public to report any matter to the police. *In an era of community policing, it is imperative to consider how the public perceives the police and police service using measures reflecting this alternative paradigm of policing. In addition, recent research suggests that perceptions of the police are formed within the context of respondents' neighbourhood cultures and contexts.* Community policing has been in existence in the South African police for almost 15 years. It has had limited impact on the perception of the police and the public in policing. Community policing is basically taking policing to the communities and it makes fighting crime a societal responsibility.

The SAPS top management deals with the challenges of both brutality and police killings in a manner that does not address the perception. This then says that the cause is not treated. When police brutality is reported (especially by media), the management jumps into suspending the member and sometimes without even following proper procedures. In dealing with police killings the police management holds PRAYER meetings and then send numerous letters to workers about safety measures. This does not address perception because these incidents of both police brutality and police killings are continuous.

The ANC left the transformation of the police to the hands of the top management. This was a biggest mistake because these are the same people who were trained by the apartheid government. The ANC must start to consider deployment of top management who understands transformation of the police according to the ANC. The revolutionary deployment of only National Commissioner is not enough; the revolutionary deployment must also be inclusive of the Provincial Commissioners and Cluster Commanders.

There is still a lot that needs to be done for the transformation of the police and public perception on police. The Congress movement must take this responsibility to transform the public perception on the police to its structures. The movement must take advantage of the only progressive revolutionary Trade union (POPCRU) organising within SAPS to be the link between the public and workers. The constitution requires that the Province promote good relations between police and communities.

Police can improve public opinion by increasing their informal contacts with citizens. Police can increase residents' approval of their job performance and perception by participating in community meetings, increasing officers' visibility in neighbourhoods, and talking with citizens. Such informal contacts will have a positive impact on perception, the public will start to feel that the police are part of the society. Transformation of public perception on police is important and urgent if we want to achieve a safe and secure, crime free South Africa. We must also properly implement the community policing. The Congress movement must ensure that our comrades are part of the community Policing Forums. This is the only way that the CPF's will be able to influence the communities and transform the public perception on policing.

Ayanda Jam – SACP Activist & POPCRU PEC Member

There is still a lot that needs to be done for the transformation of the police and public perception on police.



HOW TO CONTACT THE SACP

SACP PROVINCIAL OFFICE

Siwani Avenue
Bisho
Block A, Unit 1
Bhisho Business Village
Tel: 0406350463
Fax: 086 600 7658
Email: nnonthoko@gmail.com
xolilenqatha@gmail.com
Administrator: Cde Noncedo Nothoko

ALFRED NZO DISTRICT OFFICE

Office B7
Rolyats Centre
Kokstad
4700
Tel: 0397273595
Fax: 0397274294
Email: sadtukok@futurenet.co.za
Administrator: Cde Xatyiswa

SKENJANA ROJI DISTRICT OFFICE

3rd Floor, Oxford House
Oxford Street
East London
5201
Contact: 0437228845
Email: ivy.yamile@samwu.telkoms.net
boycemelitafa@gmail.com
Administrator: Simphiwe Mkile

O.R TAMBO DISTRICT OFFICE

43 Nelson Mandela Avenue
Mthatha
5099
Contact: 0735536906
Fax: 0866687355
Email: smvunelo@ihlm.gov.za
mvunelos@webmail.co.za

JOE QQABI DISTRICT OFFICE

P.O. Box 144
Mount Fletcher
4770
Tel: 0791631631
Fax: 0865198221
Email: sydney.belebesi@gmail.com
ammpumpu@yahoo.co.za

K.K CHULE PADIYANA DISTRICT OFFICE

02 Mendi Street
Nomathamsanqa Location
Addo
6105
Tel: 0833194206
Fax: 0865055036
Email: klaasthabiso@gmail.com
Secretary: Thabiso Klaas

CHRIS HANI DISTRICT OFFICE

NEHAWU Building
Mathew Goniwe Regional Office
20 Robinson Road
Queenstown
5320
Tel: 0458383479
Fax: 0458396715
Email: sandilenyalambisa@gmail.com

MBUYISELO NGWENDA DISTRICT OFFICE

2nd Floor, Florence Matomela House
Govan Mbeki Avenue
Port Elizabeth
6205
Tel: 0825914699
Fax: 0864074745
Email: chumani.mfama@gmail.com
District Secretary: Mthiwabo Ndube

NCUMISA KONDLO DISTRICT OFFICE

02 Avalon Court
Butterworth
4960
Tel: 0605201851/ 0820910782
Fax: 0866002576
Email: siguye.ix@gmail.com
ldwadwa@yahoo.com

SOCIAL NETWORKS



SACP Eastern Cape



@SACP 1921

